

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 2, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Nussle  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
B-17 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Chairman  
Education and the Workforce Committee  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Education and the Workforce Committee  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert, Leader Pelosi, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing to express our opposition to House plans to cut \$14.3 billion from the federal student aid programs – the single largest cut in the student aid program's history.

The \$14.3 billion in cuts were passed by the House Education and the Workforce Committee as part of the House budget reconciliation bill. These cuts were made by: raising student loan interest rate caps; raising taxes on student loans; raising interest rates on consolidation loans; and, reducing some of the excessive subsidies paid to student lenders. We respectfully ask you to reexamine these cuts to students.

We are concerned that the proposed changes of the Education and the Workforce Committee will result in the typical student paying \$5,800 more for college loans – for a student that is already \$17,500 in debt. It is simply wrong to force our nation's students, most often youth, and their families to shoulder the burden of our country's debt.

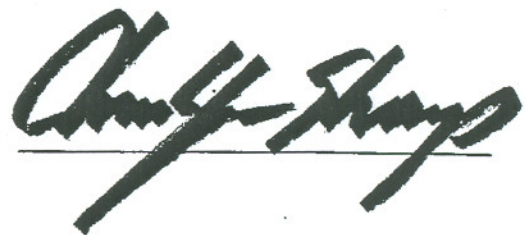
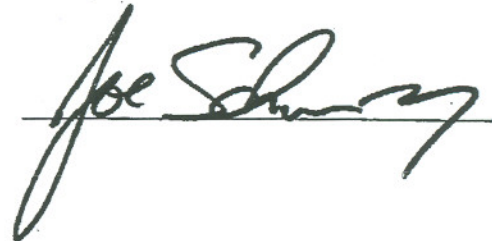
These changes are not simply an additional burden for the Congress to place on students – but the cuts may cause some students to forgo their college degree. For most low-income, first generation and minority students, financial barriers are the principle factor that determines whether they will successfully complete college. American students need and deserve more affordable college opportunities, not additional barriers to achievement.

Time and again, we hear from researchers, CEOs and even our own colleagues that investing in our nation's education system is the key to improving America's global economic competitiveness. The proposed cuts to our country's higher education student aid programs will negatively impact our workforce and economy.

As college tuition and loan debt continue to rise and the buying power of grants declines, Congress should take steps to make college more affordable. Please help our nation's students as they work hard to achieve their dreams of a college degree.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Carnahan", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Stang", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hall", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Schum", written over a horizontal line.

1. Russ Carnahan
2. Robert E. Andrews
3. Joe Schwarz, M.D.
4. Christopher Shays
5. Tammy Baldwin
6. Rush Holt
7. John Conyers, Jr.
8. Dennis Moore
9. Diane E. Watson
10. Chris Van Hollen
11. Steve Israel
12. Jerrold Nadler
13. Dale E. Kildee
14. Maurice Hinchey
15. Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr.
16. Bennie Thompson
17. Stephanie Tubbs Jones
18. Mike Honda
19. Tim Ryan
20. Robert Brady
21. Millender-McDonald
22. Stephen F. Lynch
23. William Delahunt
24. Jim McDermott
25. John Lewis
26. Frank Pallone
27. Susan Davis
28. Harold Ford, Jr.
29. James P. McGovern
30. Major R. Owens
31. Carolyn McCarthy
32. Dan Lipinski
33. Sander Levin
34. Sherwood Boehlert
35. Corrine Brown
36. E.B. Johnson
37. Sherrod Brown
38. Mike Doyle
39. Bob Etheridge
40. Brian Higgins
41. John F. Tierney
42. Brad Sherman
43. Barney Frank
44. Barbara Lee
45. Sanford Bishop